ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Education

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR E- LEARNING IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS - AN OVERVIEW

Dr. R. Sampoornam — Dept. of Adult and Continuing Education, S. V. University, Tirupati- 517502, Andhra Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

Educational Programmes are changing year by year and decade by decade. No doubt Education is the only key for all forms of development of the individual as well as the Nation. Delivery of e-learning, is not a new term but it got its importance in late 2019 and continued in 2020 also due to the spread of COVID-19 all over the World. Otherwise, individuals need to be educated about the use of ICTs to use them, and once this education takes place, additional literacy and education can follow. Because the barriers to education such as COVID-19 pandemic situation, delivery in person in the institutions is so problematic. Hence online learning plays important role in the student life from primary education onwards in coming academic years. The Government of Andhra Pradesh already introduced English Medium along with Telugu Medium. To promote smart learning Programmes, necessary infrastructure i.e., Information and Communication Technology(ICT) also provided to the Government Schools.

INTRODUCTION:

Education is the only key for all forms of development of the individual as well as the Nation. From the beginning of the year 2020, ICTs are playing important role in all the fields especially in the education field. Delivery of e-learning, occupied an important role in the day to day life of the children. In other words, individuals need to be educated about the use of ICTs to use them, and once this education takes place, additional literacy and education can follow. Because the barriers to education such as COVID-19 pandemic situation, delivery in person in the institutions is so problematic. Hence online learning plays important role in the student life from primary education onwards in coming academic years. The Government of Andhra Pradesh already introduced English Medium along with Telugu Medium. To promote smart learning, necessary infrastructure also provided to the Government Schools under Nadu-Nedu programme.

Objectives of the Study: The objectives of the study are;
1. To study the functioning of Government Schools.
2. To analyse the infrastructure facilities provided in the Government Schools for promoting E-learning among the students especially Girls.

Methodology and Collection of Data:

The study is based on the primary and secondary data. Secondary sources include, both published and unpublished records of School Education. Concerned websites were also referred wherever necessary for collecting relevant information. The researcher visited the Government Schools and observed the infrastructure facilities available for E-Learning. The researcher also met the students, parents, teachers, administrative staff, parent committees, etc and collected the relevant and necessary information.

Limitations of the study:

The study is confined to the Government Schools in Chittoor district of Rayalaseema region.

Results and Discussions

The e-learning and online classes can be conducted by using the following

*   Ebooks;
*   Journals;
*   Videos;
*   Recorded lectures;
*   Quizzes;
*   Discussion forums
*   Live Q&A sessions; and
*   Interviews.

The findings of the study are presented in the following lines.
1. The Government Schools are equipped with Computer Labs along with sufficient computer systems with internet.
2. The Government Schools are provided Smart Class rooms sufficient Projectors.
3. Teachers are using Smart Class rooms to teach the children.
4. Teachers are using online available videos to promote the interest among the children.
5. The Academic Year ending i.e., from the middle of March2020, due to Lockdown because of COVID-19, the institutions are closed.
6. The Government took a decision that all the students up to 9th standard are to be promoted to next class.
7. For next academic year the students will undergo with online learning.

Obstacles:

1. No doubt, the Government Schools are provided necessary infrastructure to meet the changing needs in the education field. Still some obstacles are prevailed in the Government sector as detailed below.
2. In Government Schools Computer Systems are not updated with new versions from time to time. But the Private Sector Schools are far ahead in organising the online classes by using latest versions.
3. The Technical Staff on regular basis are not recruited. Due to their termination, the maintenance of systems ignored.
4. The students need instruments to take the online classes which is a burden for them as they fall under Below Poverty Line.
5. As many of the parents are not educated, they are not interested to buy necessary infrastructure for their children for online classes.
6. The financial position of the parents donot permit them to spend the money other than food, clothing and shelter.
7. E- learning do not promote socializing with peergroup, watching lectures in the presence of Teacher and participating in subject-specific discussions in groups.
8. E learning require a greater degree of self-motivation among the children which is difficult to the children
9. E learning classes schedule may not convenient to the girl children as they perform multitasks at home. If they attend the school, they can concentrate on studies as they are away from home.
10. Teacher feedback some times may not be possible.
11. Internet problems interrupt the effective learning. It may reduce the concentration among the students.

Suggestions:
1. The students must made to have access to these tools, they must be trained accordingly in order to understand and effectively use technology to its full benefit in their lives.
2. The Government has to harness the power of technology towards building students capacities to ensure them access to the most current digital tools – tools that are rapidly and perpetually and expanding the reach of such technologies; for example, by equipping school libraries with computers and access to Internet.
3. e-Learning and m-Learning requirements such as desktop, laptop and tablet computersmay be provided to the students.
4. These tools also have the power to expand students capacity, i.e., their ability to diagnose diseases and track patients' progress to maintain in good health in this situation.

Various devices/technology for e-learning or online learning includes:
• Access of course materials through remote devices,
• Online digital repositories for lectures, course materials, and digital library,
• Online/ cloud based academic management systems,
• Employing the flipped classroom concept,
• Making use of handheld computers, tablet computers, audio players, projector devices etc.

New trends
Introducing ICT into education will show the result by reaching the fruits to a larger number of students. The Mobile learning (m -learning) as a form of e -learning is in rising trend, where the education has outgrown the physical constraints of the classrooms and acquired mobility. Students' access information whenever and wherever they want, and institutions that provides such advanced technological terrains is rising in number day by day without any interruption. One way to improve the quality of education is to make use of efficient technology in an institution. This will open up more opportunities for the teachers and students as well.

CONCLUSION
To conclude, enabling e-learning in education, and making use of technology in education creates an easy-to-manage learning environment among students where the delivery of information is so much smoother and the learning easier. ICT is definitely the path to take for institutions, especially in countries like ours, as our growth is directly aligned with technology and the field of education is no exception and assures higher quality education for its student.

REFERENCES:
1. E-Adoption and Technologies for Empowering Developing Countries: Global Advancements, Text Book.by Sharma, Sushil K.
2. R. Rakesh, "Role of Information Technology in Women Empowerment", Global Journal of Finance and Management, Vol. 2.
3. Padmini. Chattu, Salamuddeen. SK, Janardhan. Ummadi, S.Suresh Babu, "Empowering Rural Women Through Mobile Technology", IJCST, Vol. 4, Issue SPL-4.
4. http://www.uis.unesco.org
5. http://mhrd.gov.in/statist
6. http://dise.in